

LIBERTARIAN LP PARTY NEWS

The Party of Principle®



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Libertarian Reelected Chairman of City Committee in MO

In 2004, Mike Ferguson was the Libertarian nominee for Missouri Lt. Governor. The Board of Aldermen in his hometown of Grandview, Missouri liked what they saw in that campaign enough to appoint him to the city's Transportation Committee in early 2005, which reviews all changes to ordinances that pertain to traffic, parking and other safety issues.

In 2006, after less than one year on the committee, the other committee members elected Ferguson chairman. He was re-elected to the position by the committee in 2007 and again this month for 2008.

Ferguson commented: "These past three years have been a big opportunity to learn some of the practical things that are needed to work in real-world political roles. I'm looking forward to continuing to learn as I lead the committee for another year.

"Not all politics are about the big, emotional issues. I hope more Libertarians get involved at the local

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Libertarian Party Closes 2007 with Big Gains

For political junkies, it was hard to find anything to be cheery about in 2007. Republicans continued their war against civil liberties and fiscal responsibility, and Democrats in Congress didn't do much of anything at all. The year was marred by historic lows for both Congress and the president, and wrought with scandals of power and corruption. From Ted Stevens to Larry Craig, good news was few and far between.

However, just as the year was closing, the Libertarian Party announced something to give those looking for a political alternative a little New Year's joy. Marking

an end to a long streak of yearly membership losses, the Libertarian Party is reporting an increase of 28 percent in membership for Dec. 2006 to Dec. 2007 time period. The jump in Libertarian Party members comes while Democrats and Republicans are struggling to stave off members abandoning the parties in pursuit of political alternatives. So while the two major parties were begging members to stay, the Libertarian Party was raking them in.

The tremendous increase in membership has gotten significant play in the media, from local newspapers excited about the impact a stron-

ger third party could have in local races, to well-known Internet sites like TownHall.com. Reporters all want to know what has caused this surge in Libertarian ranks, as if the answer isn't obvious.

"The numbers show what everybody has been saying--people are not happy with the two-party system and are ready for a change," says Libertarian Party Executive Director Shane Cory. Cory highlights one of the biggest catalysts for LP growth in this past year: overwhelming disapproval with the two major parties. When voters grow disillusioned with their respective parties, they turn to the LP as a viable alterna-

tive to the two-party system.

Resurgence in Libertarian membership is a welcomed return to the growth of the Party after it peaked in 1999. Beginning in 1993 with an aggressive buildup starting two years later, the Libertarian Party's membership soared to more than 33,000 active, dues-paying members. In the subsequent six years, the numbers tanked to a low of just more than 11,000.

"At the time, membership numbers were the least of our worries," said Robert Kraus, operations manager of the Libertarian Party, earlier this year. "We were fighting each day to keep the doors

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LNC Secretary Bob Sullentrup Honored in New York

LNC Secretary Bob Sullentrup was honored in New York City on December 18 for his work with Rock-The-Debates, Inc., an organization that he founded.

Rock-The-Debates, Inc.

seeks to get third party and independent candidates into the 2008 presidential debates that are on the ballot in enough states to have a mathematical chance of winning the presidency. The Commission on

Presidential Debates, an organization comprised of Republicans and Democrats, controls the debates and excludes third parties and independents. Although Sullentrup has been the Libertarian Party national secretary since 2004, Rock-The-Debates is not affiliated with any political party

and includes Greens, Independents, Libertarians and others.

The Independence Party of New York awarded Sullentrup and Rock-The-Debates cohort Larry Reinsch of Iowa, chair of the Iowa Citizens Debate Commission, their annual Anti-Corruption Award at a gala event across from City Hall in Manhattan.

"We have Americans dying in Iraq to promote democracy in that part of the world", Sullentrup noted, "while in this country we can't manage to have free, open and inclusive presidential debates. There's something fundamentally wrong with that."

The approach of Rock-The-Debates is to 'bird-dog' candidates when they appear in voter-accessible places like

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LNC Secretary Bob Sullentrup accepting award for founding Rock the Debates.

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LP Sees 28 Percent Membership Increase

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open. It was a very tough time.” With financial woes and membership declines, the Libertarian Party fought vigorously to overcome nearly 21 months of back-to-back membership losses.

Initial efforts in member reacquisition saw tremendous success and brought back more than 1,000 members to the Party. A substantial prospecting campaign began in June, which is planned to reach more than 230,000 people registered as a Libertarian but who have never joined with the party. The result of these efforts, combined with the record levels of dissatisfaction with Republicans and Democrats, finally put the Libertarian Party back on track.

Currently, there are approximately a quarter-million registered Libertarians in the United States, and the Libertarian Party boasts more than 105,000 members.

One interesting figure to arise out of the new membership numbers are those new members who report the U.S. military as their employer. When the numbers were totaled in July of 2007,

7 percent of new members claimed the Armed Forces as their employer. In fact, at that time, the LP was attracting more than 14 times the national average of active duty service members.

“We are honored to have such support from US military personnel,” says Libertarian Party Executive Director Shane Cory. “But it should come as no surprise. Our non-interventionist message resonates with our service men and women. They will do their job in Iraq for as long as they are told to do it, but they want to come home, and they see the Libertarian Party as the party most dedicated to bringing them back where they belong.”

Libertarian Party members in the armed forces range from junior enlisted personnel to Vice Admiral Michael Colley, USN, [Ret.], who serves on the Libertarian National Committee.

The great gains the Libertarian Party has made in the past year is sure to further the notion that third parties will play a pivotal role in the 2008 elections. With more and more people being exposed to the libertar-

ian philosophy through LP candidates elected to office, Libertarian volunteers and activists in the community, and even a little unintentional promotion through Ron Paul’s presidential campaign in the GOP, LP membership is sure to grow.

“We’re attracting members from both the Republican and Democratic Parties,” says National Media Coordinator Andrew Davis. “Americans are ready for an alternative to the two-party monopoly on politics. They want a change, and the Libertarian Party is that change.”

A growing Libertarian Party is vital for the health of the democratic process. As the LP continues to expand and gain prominence throughout the country, its influence in mainstream politics will be greatly enhanced. As the “libertarian reawakening” spreads further across the nation, more and more Americans will join ranks with the Libertarian Party to help restore the liberty lost under the rule of the Republicans and Democrats.

Libertarian Party Headquarters plans on 2008 as another strong year of growth.

The next big filing deadline comes in late February in California, where master candidate recruiter Ted Brown has already mobilized 68 candidates for U.S. Congress and State Assembly. California also is a hotbed of local Libertarian officeholders, including Norm “Firecracker” Westwell, who will be running for reelection to the Ocean View School Board. With such a great start to the campaign season, there will be plenty of strong Libertarian candidates to help elect in 2008.

Such gaudy numbers should not deter smaller or less organized states from recruiting their own record slates. In 2006, Kansas, Louisiana and South Dakota in particular used what for those states were record slates to build their affiliate up to the next levels of activity. This year, Libertarians in Maine are already planning campaigns around which they can reinvigorate their state party.

There are a number of great reasons why Libertarians would run for office, even in races where the odds of victory are long. Every candidate receives invitations for media exposure and opportunities to spread the Libertarian message that we otherwise would have to struggle to get. As a candidate for public office, you also have an easy way to walk up to anyone and start a positive conversation about liberty. Libertarian candidates have the ability to raise issues not currently being discussed and make them part of the local or statewide political agenda. Any campaign volunteers recruited can easily be turned into more active Party members after the election.

For many, the main reason to run for office is that it’s fun! It feels great to be constantly asked for your opinion on the issues that mean the most to you, and to be invited to meet new people to spread the good news of liberty.

The biggest piece of media in any election is the

ballot itself. When voters see that Libertarians are running for office at every level of government, they are impressed by a party that is a grassroots movement and ready to lead. Even if you only receive a small percentage of the vote, opinion makers and opposing politicians take notice and realize they have to answer to our portion of the electorate. Quite often our candidates form relationships by campaigning which last them well beyond the election, sometimes with unexpectedly pleasant results. Ballot Access News noted a few years back that the majority of positive ballot access bills introduced in state legislatures over the previous decade had been sponsored by people who had faced a Libertarian opponent in the previous election.

Politics is about far more than ideology and platforms. We need to put a human face on Libertarianism, and being a candidate is easily the best way to do that. Quite often, people form their opinions about our party based on how they feel about the first Libertarian they met. You have that opportunity to be that first contact for the voters in your district.

If you are interested in running for office as a Libertarian in 2008, first consider your goals. If you wish to be an ambassador of the Libertarian Party and increase your political or professional network, you may prefer to run for a larger office which allows you the most media exposure. However if your goal is to win, look for more local opportunities down the ballot for a race that makes winning possible.

Please feel free to contact our Political Director, Sean Haugh, by phone at 202-288-9853 if you are interested in running for office as a Libertarian in 2008, or even if you are just thinking about it and want to find out more. Your own state party also has resources and vital information to help you get started down the campaign trail.

Ferguson Reelected to City Committee

Continued from page 1

level of government like this. This is where you get to put principles into practical application and where your decisions directly affect people, even if it’s on a small scale.”

The Transportation Committee isn’t the only office in

which Ferguson serves. Earlier this year, Ferguson was elected to the Board of Directors of the local water district, winning over 72 percent of the vote in a two-way race. In 2003, he was appointed by the then-Secretary of State to serve on the Missouri State

Plan Committee which developed the state’s election reform plan required by the federal Help America Vote Act.

Mike Ferguson will be among the speakers at the 2008 Libertarian National Convention in Denver, Colorado this May.

Campaign 2008 kicks off in a big way

The Libertarian Party of Texas started the 2008 election season with a bang, filing 210 candidates for partisan offices on January 2nd.

According to their Web site, “For the first time, Libertarian candidates filed for every statewide race. Libertarians filed for 30 of the 32 U.S. House seats, 12 of the 15 Texas Senate seats (80 percent, a record

percentage), 102 of the 150 Texas House seats (68 percent, a record percentage), and 5 of the 7 State Board of Education seats (71 percent, a record percentage).” Their slate also includes 37 candidates who filed for county-level offices.

According to LP Texas’ Executive Director, Wes Benedict, this mark is just short of the all-time record of 218 candidates in Texas,

which is all the more remarkable considering that in Texas people who want to vote for Ron Paul in their upcoming primary in his home state have to be registered as Republicans, making them ineligible to be Libertarian candidates under state law. Texas will probably exceed their record once candidates for local nonpartisan offices become known.

POLITICS 2008

Gubernatorial Candidate Michael Munger Breaking “The Matrix” in North Carolina

By Sean Haugh

“Sometimes I feel like we are all living in one of the ‘Matrix’ movies,” says Mike Munger, Libertarian candidate for Governor of North Carolina. It’s an apt analogy. So many people are locked into the two-party system that they often don’t even see the alternatives right in front of them. But Munger has found some success breaking people’s minds out of the American political “matrix.”

“One of the most heartening things I have been hearing,” says Munger, “is from voters who never thought they would look outside the state-sponsored parties. They say, ‘I never thought I could vote Libertarian. But the more I look at the issues, and the parties....well, I might vote for you!’ We have to make people imagine that the world could be different, that their lives could be better or freer.”

As the Chair of the Political Science Department at Duke University and a regu-

lar columnist for the *Raleigh News and Observer*, Munger already has a lot of experience opening people’s minds to new ideas. Munger is taking a sabbatical from his academic post to concentrate full time on his campaign. However the *News and Observer* has continued to run his column, and media outlets across the states regularly include Munger when mentioning the candidates who have already announced their intent to run for Governor. Munger has also been included in early polls for the race, coming in at 2 to 4 percent.

The 2 percent threshold is important for North Carolina ballot access due to a recent change in state law. In previous elections, the barrier

for retaining full party ballot access was 10 percent of the vote for Governor or President. But with this reform, now it is well within our



2008 Candidate Michael Munger.

grasp to win permanent ballot access in North Carolina.

Until then, however, North Carolina is still working to meet some of the most stringent ballot access requirements in the country. The ballot drive costs over

\$100,000 every four years, leaving the LPNC coffers dry before the race even begins.

But that does not take the seemingly permanent smile from Munger’s face. Munger is the prototypical “happy warrior,” always conveying the feeling of pure joy that naturally accompanies the message of freedom. He has even turned this burden into another weapon in his arsenal.

“Ballot access is a winning issue for us,” says Munger. “I have been surprised at the universal agreement I get from people when I make speeches or talk to them one-on-one. In fact, lots of times folks will say, ‘Why isn’t anyone upset about this? Why isn’t someone doing something?’ I stare at them, and say, ‘I’m running for Governor, and my party is trying to change the law. Now, sir, what are YOU doing?’”

When asked why he is running as Libertarian, Munger replies, “One problem we have is that most Libertarians are not interested in the party because they love politics. They are Libertarians because they love liberty. Having to organize politically just to protect your own rights and the free way of life is frustrating. But we have to do it. We have to think about the political system as something that we can use to defend liberty. Our message is something that a lot of Americans are ready to hear, that they want to hear. We just have to get that message out, and get Libertarians elected to public offices, at all levels, all over the country.”

Munger’s Web site, <http://munger4ncgov.com/>, focuses this reasoning outside the party. “I want to run for Governor of North Carolina as a Libertarian,” according to Munger, “[because] I want to

restore good government to our great state. My themes, a moratorium on capital punishment, control of municipal aggression against property, a broad-based education vouchers system and ending corporate welfare, are all echoes of this one central theme. I am a liberal, in the way that Thomas Jefferson and James Madison were liberals. I believe in the human spirit more than I believe in government direction and control of human activity. As Governor, I will lead North Carolina towards a rebirth of liberty, tempered by the requirements, and the ethics, of personal responsibility.”

Although Munger will most likely never lose the smile, he has shorn the golden locks that until recently defined his appearance. His new haircut is a practical reflection of this Libertarian brand of personal responsibility. Munger’s wife Donna is a cancer survivor, so he grew out his hair to donate it to Locks of Love, an organization that provides hairpieces for children whose own locks have been lost to disease or its treatment. The big haircut took place on December 28, 2007, and is documented on his blog, <http://munger4ncgov.com/campaignblog.php>. “Let’s try to find a cure for cancer in our own lifetimes,” says Munger in both word and deed, “before those lifetimes are cut short.”

Munger resides near the top of the LP’s Candidate Tracker because he has been actively campaigning for almost two years already. He has a goal to visit all 100 of North Carolina’s counties, and had already made appearances in 16 of them by September 2007. As the North Carolina ballot drive nears completion and the media turns its attention to November’s contests, Munger has put himself in a great position to put on a campaign the likes of which NC has never seen.

LP News

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The Mission Statement of the Libertarian Party:

“To move public policy in a libertarian direction by building a political party that elects Libertarians to public office.”

INSIDE LOOK

Libertarian Party Receives Bequest from Tennessee Libertarian

By Andrew Davis

Many Libertarians say they will fight for liberty in America until they die, and hold true to that promise. Raymond G. Burrington was one of those people, except for one major difference. Even after his passing, Mr. Burrington still was dedicated to the cause of liberty.

Mr. Burrington, of Knox County, Tennessee, passed April 26, 2007. A lifelong advocate of individual freedom in the U.S., Mr. Burrington knew the fight for liberty would last long after he was unable to continue it. Knowing this, Mr. Burrington listed the Libertarian Party in his will as a residuary legatee, meaning they would receive a portion of his estate upon death.

“Bequeathing parts of estates to the Libertarian Party is not all that uncommon,” says Bill Hall, Libertarian Party general counselor and Michigan state chairman. “It is not hard to provide as part of your estate planning for a gift to further the causes of freedom following your death.”

Hall says that state af-

filiates are contacted several times a year in regards to estate planning gifts, and while many of these gifts are not as large as Mr. Burrington’s, any amount goes towards furthering the Libertarian Party’s efforts for liberty. “For a bequest in a will, it is as simple as writing: ‘I hereby give and bequeath [cash amount, percentage amount of estate, or property you are giving] to the Libertarian National Committee, Inc. (i.e., the national committee of the Libertarian Party in the United States of America), Washington, DC, for its general purposes,’” says Hall.

Along with the Cato Institute, the National Rifle Association and a personal friend, Mr. Burrington bequeathed 25 percent of his estate to the Libertarian Party. In its final sum, the total gift to the LP is expected to be possibly up to \$200,000.

Because of campaign finance laws, the Libertarian Party will receive an initial gift of \$28,500, the maximum an individual is allowed to donate to a political party, with the remaining amount left in escrow to be donated yearly at the maximum amount allowed.

However, Hall says maximum campaign contribution limits are easy to work with. “If you have a contribution limit problem,” says Hall, “then typically you address it in the will and/or estate planning trust by providing for the amount of the bequest exceeding the contribution limit to be held in a trust or escrow and paid out over a period of years, paying the maximum permitted amount each year.”

Hall volunteered to provide a sample of the necessary language upon request.

Estate planning gifts are a great way to show your lasting support to the Libertarian Party. The fight for liberty is one that often takes an entire lifetime fighting, and then some. Any size gifts are appreciated and will be used for the core functions of the Libertarian Party, including ballot access, media outreach and candidate recruitment.

If you are interested in making a gift to the Libertarian Party during your estate planning, please don’t hesitate to contact us by calling Louise Calise at 202-333-0008 ext. 235 who can arrange assistance from the Libertarian Party’s general counsel, Bill Hall.

Sullentrup Honored for Rock-The-Debates

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Iowa and New Hampshire. One person asks the ‘Rock-The-Debates’ question – “Would you, Mr. or Ms. Candidate, be willing to debate those with a mathematical chance of winning?” – while the other person captures the video. The organization hopes the candidate responses featured at their Web site, rockthedeates.org, will help to ignite a groundswell of public support for open, inclusive presidential debates.

Sullentrup met Libertarian Party member Seth Cohn when he attended the Free State Project convention in New Hampshire in February trying to drum up interest for Rock-The-Debates. “Talking to Seth was like hitting a home run on the first pitch,” Sullentrup noted. “He’s the one who told me there was a word for this – ‘bird-dogging’ the candidates.” Seth Cohn has been the organization’s webmaster, one of its videographers and board member since its inception.

Sullentrup’s and Cohn’s efforts follow litigation and a 2004 publicity drive to highlight the debates issue. Rock-The-Debates board member Jackie Salit, president of the Committee for a Unified Independent Party, has litigated against the Commission on Presidential Debates “since the day it was founded.” Board

member and author George Farah whose 2004 book *No Debate* and Web site OpenDebates.org, led the publicity drive four years ago.

“Technologies are coming available that fundamentally change the landscape of possibilities for humans,” Sullentrup continued. “I see that every day at work and YouTube in particular has allowed us to bird-dog candidates on a shoestring.”

Richard Winger, publisher and editor of *Ballot Access News*, studied presidential elections since before the Civil War and found that most of the time there were no more than four candidates with a mathematical chance of winning, and only twice have there been as many as seven. This debunks arguments that including third party candidates would lead to there being too many candidates on stage.

“If we can select Miss America from 50 states, we should be able to select our president from a handful,” Winger pointed out.

Sullentrup is a computer specialist living in St. Louis with his wife Diane of 29 years.

For more information on Rock-The-Debates, visit their Web site at www.rockthedeates.com and be sure to view their online clips of the various presidential contenders.

2008 Convention Update

By BetteRose Ryan

The Denver LPCon has added more to the convention packages. Each registration level from Congressional and above has new events included.

Prior to the start of the convention, on Thursday, May 22, there will be a tour of the U.S. Mint. While this tour has been added for no charge, the attendee must sign up in advance so that Denver LPCon can make the necessary arrangements. Tour groups are not large, and arrangements must be made for both the

time and the number of tour groups. The groups will go through the U.S. Mint around noon on Thursday.

It’s a masquerade party! That’s right. Attendees coming to the convention a day early are invited to a party. The theme of this party is “Favorite Politician or Issue” and will be a great time for all. Attendees are not required to dress for the masquerade but there will be prizes for best costume, great lowest budget costume, best representation of an issue costume and others. The party will be held Wednesday evening, May 21.

This event is free to all those who have registered for the convention at the Congressional level and above.

There is another special event taking place during the time of the convention as well. Dr. Richard Hoagland, heard on Coast to Coast radio, will be addressing many of his listeners and readers on Friday, May 22, at the Adam’s Mark Hotel. This event is open to the public. Attendees to our convention who are registered at the Congressional level and above will be admitted to this event for free. Anyone else wishing to attend must purchase a ticket for \$25 from the event handler, which will be announced.

Attendees can look forward to round table discussions and coffee klatches held before, during and after the convention. There will also be training sessions for those serious minded candidates and activists. The training sessions will be held during the convention, though if interest is high, there may be some hands on training on Thursday, May 22, and on Monday, May 26.

White Water Rafting is a great Colorado adventure. Denver LPCon is making arrangements for rafting tours. While this event is a pay-as-you-go event, it is one not to be missed. There are several companies who have half-day

trips within a 30 to 60 minute drive of downtown Denver. These companies offer all levels of white water rafting from the family mild to the only over 14 years-old trip; from level 1 to level 5. Attendees should contact BetteRose Ryan at BetteRose@aol.com if they believe they would like to participate in this adventure. Currently, Denver LPCon is trying to make arrangements for trips on Wednesday, May 21, 2008.

Denver LPCon is working on more ways to make this convention not just a convention but an adventure. If any attendee has any suggestions, please send the information to Denver LPCon 2008.

Stalwarts of Liberty

The Libertarian National Committee thanks the following renewing members:

*Renewal Period:
11/21/07 - 12/31/07*

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Erik Eagle
Kent Earnest
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Jeffrey Edgren
John Egan
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Naomi Eikenberg
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Tracy N. Eley
Linda L. Ellis
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Edward Ellman
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Richard Giles
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Jonathan C. Goble
Paul Gohman
David Goldin
Jame S. Goldstein
Max Goldstein

Stalwarts of Liberty

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Sam Goldstein	Stephen Hoverman	Guy B. Langsdale	Amy Midgley	Kevin Piowaty	William E. Schrader	Frank J. Ulichney
Michael Gonsior	Radphord-Leon	Dave Larkin	Peter Mihm	Dennis Pitman	Douglas W. Schwartz	Jada L. Urquhart
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William Griffin	Rob Jackson	Jack Leonard	Joe Mistachkin	Wallace R. Pratt	Steven H. Shmurak	James R. Vowell
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Gerald T. Gschwind	Alexander Jakosa	Ronald Leonard	Richard A. Mitchell	Allan Presser	Walter Shutter Jr.	Luke Waddell
Donald A. Guadagnoli	Richard Jakosa	Austin S. Lett	Daniel Mola	Klaus Price	Jeffrey Silverberg	Mary Wade
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			Robert Pidgeon	Doris A. Schrader	Terry Tusher	Edward Tyrcha

THE MAILBOX

Stand for Something or Nothing at All

In 1968, I became 21 and eligible to vote. In 1967, I made a personal commitment to my fallen brothers in Viet Nam that I would vote at every election and vote for the best interests of the nation that they gave their lives to protect. I have kept that commitment. I have always voted my conscience and not my party.

In 1968, when I registered to vote, I was told that in order for my vote to count, I needed to register Democrat. I said no way, show me Republican. Now my area is a Republican bastion. After the past few years my Republican government has gone wild. I think it is time for a real change. Time for me to do the third party thing. The Libertarian party seems to be my best bet.

If you don't stand for something, you will stand for nothing. I will soon change my party affiliation for the good of my country.

— Gary Chandler
Pensacola, Florida

Why Bother Voting for Prez?

I don't understand why folks are so twisted up about presidential elections. Anyone who understands the U.S. Constitution understands that the election of any president, past, present, or future does not allow for the vote of the common citizen (popular vote).

Article 2, Section 1, Paragraph 2 clearly states that the State Legislatures appoint electors in number that are equal to the number of U.S. Representatives and Senators to vote for the U.S. President (Electoral College). By today's count that's 535 people (435 U.S. Reps and 100 Senators) in the entire United States that vote for and elect the President out of 300+ million citizens.

A little disproportionate to say the least.

It seems to me that the citizens' control comes at the state level. We need to elect Libertarian state legislators who will, in turn, appoint Libertarian electors. Then, and only then, will we have any say in presidential politics.

— Arthur E. Ford
Cleburne TX

Yoopers to Blame?

As a LP'er, I need to point out a blatant error on the front page of Nov/Dec 2007 Newspaper. The state of Michigan is split in two on the map of the United States. However, when colored to indicate the states which had LP candidates win elections, the state of Michigan ONLY shows the eastern portion highlighted. Is it possible the "Yoopers" didn't agree with the election?

— Teri Luebeck
Michigan

Editor's note: Teri, our apologies. The staffer responsible for the graphic is a Texan, so please forgive his lack of knowledge on Yooper territory. We've ordered him the book, Growing Up Yooper: Childhood Memories of Michigan's Upper Peninsula, as a fair way to make amends with our Michigan readers.

Labeling Laws

I have wondered why no political party has not realized the importance of consumer-concerned issues. This would be a valuable check on corporate influence in politics and save lives at the same time. It is an issue that effects all regardless of differences.

An example would be

in strict labeling laws. Like tobacco, listing country of manufacture, ingredients, recommended use, and any possible drug interactions. How many cigarettes would tobacco companies recommend an individual smoke a day if they were held liable for health issues related to smoking? Alcohol would be another product that strict labeling would distribute responsibility if listed recommended amount to consume with in a time period for a certain body weight, placing responsibility on the individual consumer for abuse and failure to follow listed advice. Now place illegal substances under the same legislation allowing a consumer means to address harm caused by a substance not properly labeled. This would not eliminate drug use but it would be incentive to create safer recreational drugs. Placing the manufacturer and distributor under potential liability as opposed to incarcerating non criminal users.

— Anthony Frank

Editor's note: Anthony, regardless of labeling laws, an individual is responsible for their own actions. In a free-market, consumer advocacy groups and others willingly take on the responsibility of informing the public of harmful, poorly made, unsafe, etc., products. Forcing a private company to disclose what is right and wrong for an individual to consume as part of labeling laws is wrong. Responsible companies will do what they feel is best for both their company and their customers. However, in the end it is up to the individual to take responsibility for what they allow into their bodies or homes.

Libertarians Need to Get Real!

I am again, as I have for the last five elections, running as a Libertarian for the First Congressional District of Alabama. I served in the US Air Force for 22 years. I pay attention because I am a news junky. I am 72

years old. All of which gives me a degree of "cred".

I am very angry with the Libertarian Party position on Foreign Affairs.

The platform speaks in glittering generalities about non-intervention and ignores the fact that we are at war. It ignores the fact that we, and our interests have been assaulted repeatedly since Iran captured and occupied our embassy in Teheran in 1979. It ignores the fact that the US must live in a global society even with all of it's warts. And it has the unmitigated gall to include our "open borders" dream scheme as the major statement under Foreign Affairs.

And under "Issues", the only non-platform entry is the piece by Michael Tanner that manages to ignore the fact that we have been illegally invaded by upwards of 10 million criminals.

Not only am I angry, but our apparent ignorance of the realities of the world in which we live makes me sick. I am aware that we are against the initiation of aggression but we are also duty bound to protect our property and our interests. We seem to ignore this latter point.

If we are EVER to be taken seriously as a viable political party in this country, the people who run this party better get a realistic grip on foreign affairs, rather than fill their bellies with "pie-in-the-sky".

— Dick Coffee
Mobile, AL

More on Ron Paul

You might want to add Ron Paul to the "Liberty Decides '08" list; I sent a whopping generous 20 bucks in his name, and I imagine some other LP members'll want to do likewise. I'm not sure how he'd stand with the LP bylaws, but I imagine he's filed with the FEC, and we'll see if his name raises \$5000 for the LP.

If Ron Paul wins the GOP nomination (even for Veep), the LP might concentrate on lower offices. If he lets the

LP nominate him, even if he doesn't campaign his name would do the party good.

— Andrew Lohr
Chattanooga, TN

Say No to Mitt!

Page one of the November/December issue has an article entitled "LP Values Highlighted at Leadership Conference." The article is quite informative, but I object to a picture of Mitt Romney front and center in a Libertarian Party publication just as the Republican caucuses begin.

Romney is a super-statist who forced Massachusetts residents to buy health insurance, snubbed medical marijuana patients, and wants to double the size of the Guantanamo military prison. The only way his picture should be shown is inside a red circle with a slash through it.

— Ted Brown
San Gabriel, CA

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Space permitting,
we will publish your
letter in a future issue
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Note that LP News
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INSIDE LOOK

Outreach Successful in Minnesota

Bob Odden knows about taking the ideas of liberty to the public. He's Chair of the Libertarian Party of Minnesota. A few weeks ago, Bob led an Operation Politically Homeless (OPH) outreach booth at a weekend gun show in St. Paul, Minnesota.

OPH, of course, is the Advocates' famous "event in a kit," which uses the World's Smallest Political Quiz and other tools to transform an ordinary dull outreach booth into a crowd-drawing, fun event. "Sometimes there were so many people in front of the booth, they were blocking the aisle," he said.

Echoing the experience of many other OPHers, Odden recounted, "Some people even hung around the table kind of like groupies."

"The guy in the booth next to me got so excited about the Quiz, he manned the booth when I needed a break. He had such high energy, that he sold a high percentage of the public on taking the Quiz. He even donated money."

"He plans to be at our pot

luck this Saturday at the Liberty Center in St. Paul. Until he took the Quiz, he thought he was on the Left.

"We need him and others like him -- people who think positively and who sell people on the benefits of Liberty."

All in all, about 200 people stopped at the OPH booth. And some were so enthusiastic they showed their appreciation -- with cash.

"We collected about \$200 in donations," Bob reports.

Bob was also impressed by the large number of people who scored in the Libertarian portion of the Quiz chart. His results broke down this way:

Statist 3%
Right 10%
Left 7%
Center (mostly Libertarian leaning) 27%
Libertarian 53%

"I can feel a change coming," Bob says. "People at the booth told me that they are unhappy with where the Democrats/Republicans are taking us. Citizens want real change. They want liberty. They also want big govern-

ment to return to what is constitutionally allowed.

"Ron Paul is the only candidate for President that citizens know of that talks about liberty. Ron Paul is making citizens aware that they are losing liberty. Citizens know that if they want liberty, they need to take action. Now is the best time in generations to spread the word about liberty."

"Now think of all the thousands of bills every year that are passed by big government that violate one group or another groups rights. It is impossible to fight each and every bill that is passed that attacks liberty. Therefore, it is important to educate citizens on what liberty is, how they are losing liberty, and how Liberty benefits them directly."

"Contact your state party to volunteer and make donations. Set up affiliates at university, colleges, coffee shops, and where ever people are. Once February is over, it might be to late too take advantage of this pivotal point in time."

COMMUNICATING LIBERTY

Success with Soundbites and Short Answers

By Sharon Harris

"Go ahead -- make my day!"

Even if you never saw the movie *Dirty Harry*, you've certainly heard Clint Eastwood's classic line. Over 35 years later, it remains instantly recognizable -- and constantly quoted.

"Given the government's record with the War on Poverty and the War on Drugs, we can assume that a War on Abortion would lead within five years to *men* having abortions." -- Libertarian Party presidential candidate Harry Browne.

These are examples of great **soundbites**. Originally a "soundbite" referred to a few words or phrases clipped from a speech or interview, used by broadcast media during a story. The soundbite didn't have to be particularly memorable, just relevant to the story.

Today, however, "soundbiting" is a vital art for anyone trying to win the

attention of the public. Politicians, marketers and others work hard to create memorable, powerful soundbites -- verbal bumper stickers that catch attention and open minds.

Marketing expert Susan Harrow explains: "Soundbites consist of fascinating phrases. They can be facts, anecdotes, stories, one-liners, or clever quips. They are sentences memorably packed with meaning."

Harrow notes the advantages soundbites offer.

"The irony of talking concisely is that people will listen to you longer. Colleagues, employees, bosses and audiences will wait for your next pithy phrase. Radio and TV talk show hosts will give you more air time. Journalists will quote you."

And isn't that exactly what we libertarians want?

Be Prepared!

Take a lesson from some of the world's best communicators: don't leave soundbites to chance.

Don't rely on inspiration. Avoid the frustration of answering poorly, and then kicking yourself a day or two later when the perfect answer suddenly pops into your head.

Instead, prepare your answers in advance.

You probably already know the questions you are most likely to be asked about libertarianism. (The most common: "What is libertarianism, anyway?")

For each of these questions, create one or more short answers. They should be, maximum, 30 seconds long -- less is better. Make them detailed enough to answer the question, short enough to leave listeners asking for more.

Write them down. Refine them. Commit them to memory. Practice until they come quickly and easily, and



Minnesota State Chairman Bob Odden hosting an Operation Politically Homeless Booth (OPH) at a large gun show in his state.

Continued on page 9.

Fun with Soundbites

Continued from page 8

sound natural and fresh.

Former Libertarian Party presidential candidates Ed Clark, David Bergland, and Harry Browne each did this. Their seemingly off-the-cuff eloquence was actually the result of preparing and practicing soundbites and short answers.

Harry Browne wrote down the soundbites that worked best in his interviews, debates, and speeches. Eventually he had hundreds of carefully-polished jewels of compressed libertarian wisdom at his fingertips.

The result: Browne quickly became famous as one of the most persuasive, effective and quotable libertarian communicators ever.

Every libertarian who wants to be a successful communicator should follow Browne's example.

If that sounds daunting, don't despair! The good news: Other libertarians have already done a lot of the work for you.

The Van Cliburn Insight

As Advocates Founder Marshall Fritz has pointed out, great concert pianists don't write the music they perform. They choose from the world's finest music compositions – and then practice until they can deliver them with perfection.

You don't have to create wonderful, witty, memorable libertarian soundbites and short answers from scratch. Just use the best of what other libertarians have already created.

Here are a few resources available from the Advocates that can help you do this.

* The Advocates collected the best of Harry Browne's campaign soundbites – the actual ones he used in his campaigns -- into a book: *Liberty A to Z: 872 Libertarian Soundbites You Can Use Right Now*. (Yes, that's right – 872 soundbites!)

* Libertarian Party activist Mary Ruwart is another soundbite expert. Ruwart

writes a column, "Ask Dr. Ruwart," in every issue of our free e-mail newsletter, the *Liberator Online*. In it she gives short, to-the-point answers to questions libertarians are commonly asked. These answers are archived at the Advocates Web site, www.TheAdvocates.org.

* Mary Ruwart's book *Short Answers to the Tough Questions* is a treasure of soundbites, also available from the Advocates.

* Libertarianism.com, a Web site created by the Advocates, has many short soundbite-sized answers to common questions.

Of course, there are many other sources. In your reading, when you come across a great, persuasive, soundbite-like phrase, don't let it get away! Write it down. Add it to your repertoire.

Soundbites and prepared short answers will make you a far more comfortable and polished spokesperson for liberty.

And you'll enjoy your casual conversations about libertarianism a lot more when you have great answers at your fingertips!



Sharon Harris is president of the Advocates for Self-Government, which provides tools and training for successful libertarian outreach, including *Operation Politically Homeless (OPH)* and the world-famous *World's Smallest Political Quiz*. Find out more at www.TheAdvocates.org.

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Washington, DC 20037

Please note "Renewal" on the memo line if paying by check

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Go to our web site at www.LP.org. Click, "Member Center" at the top right and then click "Renew Your Membership."

You may also start a monthly pledge online by clicking on "Make a Donation" on the main page of LP.org then selecting the option to start a monthly pledge. Monthly pledgers automatically renew.

Renew over the phone:

Call the National Office at (202) 333-0008 between the hours of 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. eastern, Monday through Friday.

If calling after hours, feel free to leave a message and we'll get back to you as soon as possible!



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- ★ Watch recent speeches from LP State Conventions and the Green Party Nat'l Convention
- ★ Why I'm a Libertarian
- ★ What I'm Fighting for and Why

BLOG – CONTRIBUTE – TELL YOUR FRIENDS

Uniting ALL Independents around our Common Goals First

The threats facing our Nation are great. The solutions are real. We MUST unite ALL enraged citizens around our shared goals first (including protecting Ballot Access)... then with influence in Congress, we will pursue the rest of our Libertarian agenda.

My Commitment to Run again in 2012

90% of the time and money that we've invested thus far has been in starting this movement. If we sought the nomination again, then we would be able to launch our message 2 years sooner and for much less cost. If you trust me with your nomination for '08, then I promise to continue to fight at the same level of commitment throughout 2012 for **your** Freedom and Liberty.

National Recognition

- AngelVision ranked 120th Fastest Growing Private Company by Inc. Mag.
- Winner of 35 Awards for Innovation, Management & Adv. since 2006.

Bold Fundraising Strategy

- Realistic plan to raise \$5 million and discourage contributions to the Dems and Reps.

Use Campaign as a Vehicle...

- to fight against existing plans to embed RFID chips in driver's licenses and restrict the Internet.

Comprehensive Campaign Infrastructure

- Solid Organization including staff, office, volunteers, Cision PR database, Telosa campaign software, apparel, literature, position statements, photo and media library.
- Extensive multimedia and video production capabilities to help spread our message.
- Highly engaging website that rivals the leading Democrat and Republican Candidates.

National PR

Launching in March, '08. However, we have already appeared on:

- Newspaper Covers
- National Magazines
- TV (CNN, Aljazeera & others)

Our Goal

Capture 5-7% of the Popular Vote &
Win the Delegates from the State of Oregon

Innovative Marketing Plan

- 30 Unique PR Programs to begin launching in 2008 including Internet Videos and National College Bus Tour
- Strategy to exploit the Internet, extended campaign cycle and voter unrest.

Real Knowledge of Issues

- "Common sense" Libertarian Solutions to our nation's problems that cost little or nothing to implement.

Libertarian since 1980

- Live my life and run my business with Libertarian principles.
- Supporter of Harry Browne

Helping Build the LP

- Produced Ballot Access Internet Documentary (States may use this, **at no cost**, for fundraising or gathering signatures.) → Contact us for information
- Positive spokesman for the Libertarian Party.

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- Distinguished Business Experience, not "Political Experience"

Please show your support by making a small donation to the LP from the Liberty08 page – and let us know that you made a contribution.

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AFFILIATE NEWS AND EVENTS

Alabama

Ballot Access Assistance Needed

The state of Alabama has some of the most restrictive ballot access laws in the country, making it very hard for the Libertarian Party to place candidates on the ballot. Unlike the two dominant political parties, we have to collect thousands of signatures on a petition requesting that the Libertarian Party appear on the ballot. If you are an Alabama resident, your help is needed. Please print out the form located at, www.al.lp.org/ballot2008.htm, and make copies and collect as many signatures as you can from friends, family, etc.

You can mail the petitions to the LPA address at top of our home page, or hand them in to one of our officers or a local party contact in your area. Those signing the petition must be registered voters in the state of Alabama, and the information filled in on the petition form should match the voter registration record. However, note that those signing the petition do not have to consider themselves Libertarians, plan to vote for a Libertarian candidate, or anything along those lines. They are simply requesting that we have the opportunity to place our candidates on the ballot.

Alaska

Fairbanks Rejects the REAL ID Act

Members of the Fairbanks City Council voted unanimously against implementation of the Real ID Act back in February of 2007. While this is not recent news, it is a positive sign that Alaskans are waking up and are aware of the restrictions of the Real ID Act.

More and more Americans are realizing that the

Real ID Act is an oppressive and unconstitutional burden placed on the states by an out-of-control Federal government. A local group of Alaskans called Alaskans Against Real ID has formed recently.

California

2008 LPC Annual Convention of Delegates

The Libertarian Party of California meets annually to consider changes to the Party platform, bylaws and to elect leadership for the upcoming year.

The 2008 Convention will also include a Presidential Straw Poll as well as the selection of Delegates to the Libertarian National Convention in Denver, Memorial Day weekend (May 22-26) to choose our Presidential nominee.

The Executive Committee has scheduled the 2008 Convention on February 22-24, 2008 at the Marina Village Conference Center in San Diego.

For more information visit ca.lp.org.

Colorado

It's Convention Time!

The Libertarian Party of Colorado is pleased to announce that Colorado State University in Fort Collins is the home of the 2008 Colorado State Libertarian Convention. Mark your calendars now for the March 8th business meeting and the March 9th Constitution seminar.

2008 is an election year and this year's convention is shaping up to be one of the most important in Colorado state history. In addition to the election of State Board officers and the nomination of state and local candidates, this year's convention holds special significance. We shall be nominating delegates for the National Convention to be held in Denver.

Come be a part of his-

tory. There will be plenty of refreshments, our festive cocktail reception, and again Former Presidential Candidate, Michael Badnarik, will be hosting his Constitution Seminar. For more information visit www.lpcolorado.org.

Florida

Convention Scheduled

The annual business meeting for the Libertarian Party of Florida will be held on March 29, 2008 at the Holiday Inn Select located at 5750 T.G. Lee Blvd in Orlando, Florida.

The public is welcome to attend, however, only those that are registered Libertarian 60 days prior to the convention and are members of the Libertarian Party may vote on party business.

Details of the convention are forthcoming and posted at www.lpf.org.

In the meantime, should you have questions, please notify our convention coordinator, Vicki Kirkland at vikimm@bellsouth.net

Georgia

Libertarians say "NO" to the REAL ID Act -- again!

The REAL ID act has raised its head again. Passed by an intimidated (Republican) congress in 2005, the law mandates all states switch to secure drivers licenses that contain some biometric identifier, and that all personal information on the license be checked against government databases to verify social security number and immigration status. Libertarians led the charge against the REAL ID Act, as we did against the Patriot Act. Representative Ron Paul (R-Tx) forced legislation to prevent funding for the law in several annual appropriation bills, but eventually congress funded the law.

In response to passage of

the REAL ID Act, Georgia led 16 other states in repudiating the law by removing the biometric identifier, the fingerprint.

In a classic example of the evils of the bureaucratic state, the Department of Homeland Security on January 11, 2008 issued new regulations that have the force of law -- even though our elected political leaders will never debate or vote on the provisions.

The regulations mandate that, beginning in 2011, all Americans born after December 1, 1964 will be required to possess a drivers license containing a biometric identifier as well as several physical tamper-proof qualities. By the year 2014, no one born after that date will be allowed to board an airplane, open a bank account, or deal with any Federal agency unless they can show a REAL ID Act-compliant drivers license or government ID card. By 2017 the law will apply to all Americans regardless of age.

The American Civil Liberties Union responded in 2005 by saying the act is "the first-ever national identity card system," which "would irreparably damage the fabric of American life."

Libertarians concur with the ACLU on this issue. The REAL ID Act is anti-American by creating a national ID card. The manner in which the law is being implemented is unconstitutional because the rules are being set by unelected bureaucrats rather than an elected and accountable congress. And the underlying philosophy of the act is anti-freedom, because it implies that the ability to travel is a government-bestowed privilege rather than an inherent right.

Libertarians call on the Georgia delegation and all US legislators to repudiate this totalitarian law.

Illinois

LP Illinois Convention a Resounding Success

A spirited presidential debate, gifted Libertarian speakers and enthusiastic attendees accounted for a terrific weekend in Rockford on October 12-14th.

Presidential candidates Alden Link, Michael Jingo-zian, Christine Smith and George Phillies scored points in their bid to become the LP nominee in a candidates' forum and debate.

Keynote speakers Michael Cloud (the power of possibility), Jacob "Bumper" Hornberger (advantages of Libertarian thought) and Tony Ryan (the idiocy of the War on Drugs) delivered presentations that were both informative and persuasive.

The Illinois Convention also included activist workshops, including one by former presidential candidate Michael Badnarik, who was an invaluable help at the convention, and a round of Libertarian Jeopardy. The success of the convention builds momentum for the national convention and Election 2008. More details and photos are available on LPillinois.org.

Ballot Access

Illinois election law requires 25,000 valid signatures to get Libertarian candidates for U.S. President, Vice President, and Senate on the ballot in Illinois. To survive a tough petition challenge, the Vote Libertarian Illinois committee is planning for the collection of approximately 50,000 raw signatures during the March 25 - June 23 petition drive. The committee is working with LP National, State, and Chapter organizations to gain their support, but the plan also requires individual pledges of either signatures or dollars to make it happen. For more information, visit our newly-redesigned LP Illinois Web site, LPillinois.org or call (800) 735-1776.

Continued on page 11

AFFILIATE NEWS AND EVENTS

Continued from page 10

Missouri

Libertarian Presidential Candidates to Debate

The top candidates of America's most prominent third party will face off in Kansas City during the first major debate in the race for the Libertarian Presidential nomination.

The debate will be part of the Heartland Libertarian Conference which will take place in Kansas City, MO on April 5th, 2008. As of press time, those confirmed to be in the debate are Nevada entrepreneur and frequent FOX News Channel guest Wayne Allyn Root and Dr. George Phillies, a Physics Professor at Worcester Polytechnic Institute in Massachusetts. The final debate lineup will consist of the top four or five candidates for the Party's nomination.

The event is being held at the Intrigue Park Place Hotel and Convention Center. The conference, which is sponsored by ATLAS PAC, is a joint effort of the Missouri Libertarian Party, Kansas Libertarian Party and Cass County (MO) Libertarian Party.

The event's keynote speaker is former Congressman Bob Barr of Georgia. Rep. Barr is best known for leading the impeachment efforts against President Bill Clinton. Barr is now a member of the Libertarian National Committee.

In addition to the debate and speeches from Barr and the National Libertarian Party Executive Director Shane Cory, attendees will learn how to become better candidates and how to build effective political organizations from a panel discussion of elected Libertarian Party members and a workshop presented by Missouri LP Chair Glenn Neilsen.

The event's complete lineup of confirmed speakers and the conference agenda can be found at <http://www.lpmo.org/heartland2008>. The link to register online can be found at that Web site as well.

One of the event's coordinators, Mike Ferguson, says this conference has something to offer anyone who is interested in being active in politics and in holding government - at all levels - accountable to those it serves. "There is something for pretty much everyone at this conference. In addition to great networking and speakers, we're offering practical learning opportunities on how to get better at real-world politics."

Ferguson adds that Libertarians and independents, like those currently supporting Rep. Ron Paul's Presidential campaign, from around the Midwest are expected to attend this event.

Both the Missouri Libertarian Party and the Kansas Libertarian Party will hold their state committee meetings during the conference. Those from other states, or those from Missouri and Kansas who choose not to participate in the state meetings, have the opportunity to attend a special seminar. Michael Badnarik, the LP's nominee for President in 2004, will give his special presentation on the Bill of Rights at no additional cost to the attendees.

The event is unusually affordable with registration only \$60.00 through January 31st (\$25.00 for high school and college students). The registration fee includes all sessions of the conference. On February 1st, the regular registration rate of \$70.00 (\$30.00 for students) goes in to effect.

To learn more about the Heartland Libertarian Conference or to register to attend the event, go to <http://www.lpmo.org/heartland2008>.

New Mexico

Libertarian Party of New Mexico Founder, Maurice McDonald, Passes On

Maurice McDonald -- December 6, 1938 - December 15, 2007. Maurice McDonald, age 69, a long time Lib-

ertarian, died peacefully in his home on December 15, surrounded by his loving family, after a long battle with cancer.

He was proceeded in death by son, Robert McDonald, and is survived by his beloved wife, Paula Rhae McDonald; children, John McDonald, Heather McDonald, Michelle Kimbrell, Chris Tarpley, and James Tarpley; siblings, Richard McDonald and Diane McDonald; grandchildren, Samantha Bruns, Kai Bruns, Shea Ward, and Violet Tarpley; nieces and nephews, Kim McDonald, Randy McDonald, Heidi Vogue, and Shawn Vogue and his faithful companion, Lucky.

He was born December 6, 1938 in Albuquerque New Mexico to John and Helen McDonald. Maurice attended grade school and high school in Albuquerque as well as UNM and the New Mexico Military Institute in Roswell. After serving in the Coast Guard, he settled in Santa Fe, in 1969 where he worked in real estate. Maurice founded the Libertarian Party of New Mexico in which he was politically active his entire adult life. He was a staunch supporter of American Indian Art and an avid collector.

He will be sorely missed by all who knew him and will remain in our hearts forever.

His wishes were to be cremated and a memorial will be held in his honor at a later date. In lieu of flowers please make contributions to your favorite charity in his name.

New York

Convention Scheduled

LPNY has scheduled its annual convention for Saturday, April 26, 2008 from 9-5 at the Reception House on Northern Boulevard in Queens. Speakers include Thor Halvorssen of The Moving Pictures Institute; Steve Marriotti of the

National Foundation for Teaching Entrepreneurship; Dr. Mindy Thompson Fullilove of the Columbia School of Public Health and the Root Shock Institute (www.rootshock.org) to speak on "Root Shock: How Tearing Up City Neighborhoods Hurts America." Several of the candidates seeking the LP presidential nomination will also attend and be available for questions.

During the business session of the convention members will elect a new Chair, two Vice Chairs, a Treasurer, a Secretary and five At-Large members. There are also changes to the bylaws that have been proposed.

Scott Leffler has been appointed temporary Chair to form a new chapter in Niagara County and Sean Zehner was appointed as temporary Chair to form a new chapter in Onondaga County.

North Carolina

'08 State Convention set for Burlington

Save this date: The 2008 LPNC Convention will be held at the La Quinta Inn in Burlington Friday, April 11 through Sunday, April 13.

The convention committee is hard at work organizing an interesting, informative, and fun event.

As always, the convention will open with an informal family and friends gathering Friday evening. Business sessions will begin Saturday morning and run through Sunday, ending around noon. Business will include LPNC platform changes, Executive Committee officer elections, nominating candidates for the 2008 general election, and selecting of national convention delegates.

Open Executive Committee positions are Vice-Chair, Membership Secretary, Recording Secretary, and one at-large member.

Make your hotel reservations at the La Quinta by

calling (336) 229-5203.

Please be sure to mention you're attending the LPNC Convention. That ensures you a reduced room rate (\$69.99 + tax). Make your reservations by March 13, 2008 to get the reduced rate.

Pennsylvania

Upcoming Convention Excitement

The Libertarian Party of Pennsylvania is looking forward to its 2008 convention the weekend of March 15, 2008 near Philadelphia. Additional information will be posted at www.lppa.org as it becomes available. We will enjoy having this event in conjunction with our colleagues in New Jersey and Delaware. Please plan to stop by and visit us.

The Pennsylvania General Assembly is considering legislation rejecting compliance with the federal REAL ID Act of 2005.

We are working to encourage support for this legislation. We will also be continuing our efforts to reform the ballot access and election laws in Pennsylvania this year. We hope everyone is successful in the pursuit of Liberty in 2008!

Wisconsin

April Convention

LPWI's 2008 annual convention will be held, Saturday, April 12, in Madison at the Coliseum Bar and Banquet Center.

The convention will include a forum and a debate amongst LP Presidential nominees. For more information contact Julie Fox at 847-528-1126 or at jfox1214@sbcglobal.net.

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Liberty Decides '08 is a new program to promote our pre-nomination presidential candidates as they engage in a competitive process. To participate in the program, candidates must cross three thresholds: meet the LP bylaws requirements; file with the FEC; and raise at least \$5,000 for the LP or LP state parties for ballot access.

As of January 2008

Libertarian Party Presidential Candidates - QUALIFIED for LD '08 (ranked in order by funds raised)

<p>Wayne Allyn Root</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hometown: Henderson, NV• LD '08: QUALIFIED• Constitutionally: Yes• FEC Filed: Yes• LD '08 Total: \$14,110• More Info: www.rootforamerica.com	<p>Michael Jingoian</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hometown: Sherwood, OR• LD '08: QUALIFIED• Constitutionally: Yes• FEC Filed: Yes• LD '08 Total: \$7,890• More Info: www.resetamerica.com	<p>Daniel Imperato</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hometown: Palm Beach, FL• LD '08: QUALIFIED• Constitutionally: Yes• FEC Filed: Yes• LD '08 Total: \$5,999• More Info: www.imperato2008.com
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Libertarian Party Presidential Candidates - Not Yet Qualified for LD '08 (ranked in order by funds raised)

<p>Christine Smith</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hometown: Arvada, CO• LD '08: <u>Not Yet Qualified</u>• Constitutionally: Yes• FEC Filed: Yes• LD '08 Total: \$2,030• More Info: www.christinesmithforpresident.com	<p>Steve Kubby</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hometown: Ft. Bragg, CA• LD '08: <u>Not Yet Qualified</u>• Constitutionally: Yes• FEC Filed: Yes• LD '08 Total: \$1,265• More Info: www.kubby2008.com	<p>Alden Link</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hometown: Newburgh, NY• LD '08: <u>Not Yet Qualified</u>• Constitutionally: Yes• FEC Filed: Yes• LD '08 Total: \$800• More Info: www.link-for-pres.org
<p>Bob Jackson</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hometown: Coloma, MI• LD '08: <u>Not Yet Qualified</u>• Constitutionally: Yes• FEC Filed: Yes• LD '08 Total: \$540• More Info: www.bobjackson.org	<p>David Hollist</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hometown: Alta Loma, CA• LD '08: <u>Not Yet Qualified</u>• Constitutionally: Yes• FEC Filed: No• LD '08 Total: \$435• More Info: www.i.am/trading	<p>Barry Hess</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hometown: Glendale, AZ• LD '08: <u>Not Yet Qualified</u>• Constitutionally: Yes• FEC Filed: No• LD '08 Total: \$240• More Info: No web site available.
<p>John Finan</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hometown: Litchfield, CT• LD '08: <u>Not Yet Qualified</u>• Constitutionally: Yes• FEC Filed: No• LD '08 Total: \$125• More Info: www.johnmfinan.com	<p>Jim Burns</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hometown: Las Vegas, NV• LD '08: <u>Not Yet Qualified</u>• Constitutionally: Yes• FEC Filed: No• LD '08 Total: \$40• More Info: jimburnsforpresident.com	<p>Robert Milnes</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hometown: Camden, NJ• LD '08: <u>Not Yet Qualified</u>• Constitutionally: Yes• FEC Filed: No• LD '08 Total: \$35• More Info: www.robertmilnes.net

NOTE: The options of both "Future/Unannounced Candidate" and "None of the Above" have been offered to visitors of LP.org and have been listed on a Liberty Decides '08 direct mail piece.

The option of "Future/Unannounced Candidate" has raised \$2,086.
The option of "None of the Above" has raised \$4,127.

Any candidate not listed on this page is either unannounced or they declined to participate in the Liberty Decides '08 program. For an alphabetical list of candidates go to, www.lp.org/libertydecides/alpha.html.

UPCOMING

WANT TO KNOW
WHAT'S GOING ON IN
YOUR STATE?

HERE IS A
COMPREHENSIVE
LISTING OF UPCOMING
EVENTS FOR WHICH
WE HAVE RECEIVED
NOTIFICATION. IN THE
FUTURE, IF THERE
IS AN EVENT WE
SHOULD BE LISTING,
PLEASE LET US KNOW
BY CONTACTING
OUR VOLUNTEER
COORDINATOR,
ELIZABETH BROOKS,
AND PROVIDE WHAT
YOU CAN FOR DETAILS.

ELIZABETH CAN BE
REACHED AT OUR
HEADQUARTERS
OFFICE BY CALLING
202-333-0008.



We Need Help!

The Libertarian National
Committee is looking to
expand its pool of ballot
access petitioners.

This is a perfect job for
students and retirees who are
interested in traveling and
meeting many, many new
people.

Good petitioners can earn
up to \$1,000 per week!

Interested persons should
send contact information
along with a resume to:
jobs@lp.org.

Event	Date	Location	Contact
LIBERTARIANS OF NORTH EAST KANSAS MEETING	JANUARY 31	PLANET SUB TOPEKA, KS	WWW.LPKS.ORG
LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF WASHTENAW MEETING	FEBRUARY 1	ANN ARBOR, MI	THOMAS BAGWELL LPWCHAIR@YAHOO.COM
OKLP STATE CONVENTION	FEBRUARY 2	TULSA, OK	WWW.OKLP.ORG
SCLP EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING	FEBRUARY 3	COLUMBIA, SC	SCLP.ORG
MOBILE AREA LIBERTAR- IANS MEETING	FEBRUARY 7	THE CARPE DIEM COFFEE HOUSE MOBILE, AL	DICK COFFEE NATURALCHI@AOL.COM
WAYNE AND MONROE COUNTY MEETING	FEBRUARY 7	DEARBORN, MI	LOEL GNADT - CYNICAL- BOB@WWOWAY.COM
LP OF TIPPECANOE COUNTY	FEBRUARY 11	LAFAYETTE BREW PUB TIPPECANOE COUNTY, IN	WWW.LPINONLINE.ORG
CAPITAL AREA LP MEETING	FEBRUARY 12	LANSING, MI	WILL TYLER WHITE WHITEW15@MSU.EDU
SAN DIEGO COUNTY BUSI- NESS MEETING	FEBRUARY 13	TBA	EDWARD TEYSSIER WWW.SDLP.ORG
STATE CHAIRS' CONFERENCE	FEBRUARY 15-17	SUNSET STATION HOTEL LAS VEGAS, NV	WWW.STATECHAIRS.ORG
LP OF NEW CASTLE COUNTY MEETING	FEBRUARY 17	PANERA BREAD COMPANY NEW CASTLE COUNTY, DE	GEORGE JURGENSEN GEORGEJLP2@XEMAPS.COM
2008 NEVADA STATE CONVENTION	FEBRUARY 17	HENDERSON, NV	WWW.LPNEVADA.ORG
LPMN EXECUTIVE COMMIT- TEE MEETING	FEBRUARY 18	ST. PAUL, MN	WWW.LPMN.ORG
MARION COUNTY LP MEETING	FEBRUARY 18	DEANO'S VINO INDIANAPOLIS, IN	WWW.LPINONLINE.ORG
LP OF ST CLAIR AND SANI- LAC COUNTY MEETING	FEBRUARY 18	PORT HURON MI	MARK BYRNE MBYRNE@ITAPE.COM
CECIL COUNTY CHAPTER MEETINGS	FEBRUARY 22	RISING SUN PUBLIC LIBRARY, MD	DAVE STEN 410-287-2823
LPD STATE BOARD MEET- ING	FEBRUARY 23	SMYRNA, DE	BRAD THOMAS BRADCT@DELANET.COM
HUNTSVILLE AREA LIBERTARIANS	FEBRUARY 27	SHONEY'S RESTAURANT HUNTSVILLE, AL	PHILLIP REED (256)-852-8254
LIBERTARIAN NATIONAL CONVENTION	MAY 22-26	ADAM'S MARK HOTEL DENVER, CO	WWW.LPCONVENTION.ORG

HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW YOUR PARTY?

Each issue, we'll ask you a question, and the answer will be provided in the next
issue of *LP News*. Discussion on the question is welcome in "Letters to the Editor," space permitting.

What business will be addressed at the 2008 Libertarian National Convention?

LAST ISSUE'S LP QUESTION:

How many members officially sit on the board of the Libertarian National
Committee, and what does each seat represent?

ANSWER: The Libertarian National Committee is comprised of four officers, five at-large members, and eight regional
representatives as well as eight regional alternates. The officers are the chair, vice-chair, secretary and treasurer. At-
large members are elected in convention and represent the membership as a whole. The eight regional representa-
tives serve the 7 regions (Region 2 is a super-region with two seats) and are appointed by the state chairs within their
region.

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Web site: www.LP.org

Office hours: 9 am-6 pm ET,
New Member Information:
Call (800) ELECT-US
E-mail: info@lp.org



Libertarian Party of Texas Executive Director Wes Benedict addresses a group of Libertarians in Corpus Christi, Texas. The Texas LP is the third largest party affiliate in the nation comprising of 5.6% of national membership.

Libertarian National Committee, Inc.

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What have you missed recently on www.LP.org?

Weekly Libertarian Party Updates

News of Libertarian Party Candidates for Office

Question of the Day

Blog debates on LP issues

**Don't miss out! Visit our web site often for the latest
information on the LP.**

